



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE
Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau
CINDY HYDE-SMITH, COMMISSIONER
JEFF STEWART, DIRECTOR

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Cattle Theft Investigation by MS Department of Agriculture Leads to Arrests

Jackson, Miss. -- On February 10, the Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau (MALTB), the law enforcement division of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, arrested two individuals for livestock theft. The Bureau anticipates additional arrests and charges to be forthcoming in the future.

Lead MALTB Investigator, Mike McGowan, with assistance from the Holmes and Yazoo County Sheriff's Departments, arrested Terrance Deon Wade and Deonvick Adams both of Pickens, Miss., for the theft of 10 head of cattle from a victim in Yazoo County.

Agriculture Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith commended Investigator McGowan for his hard work and dedication and would like to thank the Yazoo and Holmes County Sheriff's Departments for assisting in this investigation. Hyde-Smith added, "I urge all livestock owners to brand their livestock for identification purposes for instances such as this. With the temptation of higher cattle prices, criminals look for easy targets such as unbranded and unmonitored livestock for possible theft and resale. By branding their livestock, farmers help provide a future deterrent against theft."

Jeff Stewart, Director of MALTB, says livestock theft is still a problem in Mississippi and referenced another recent case his office completed that involved the theft and further arrest of five suspects for stealing 91 head of cattle. He added that a brand can be considered a serial number for livestock and a good insurance policy for livestock owners against theft.

The Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau enforces laws to prevent the theft of livestock, timber, and agricultural products and investigates all agricultural crimes. The Bureau also handles the registration of all livestock brands in the State. The cost to register a brand is \$5 for a registration period of 5 years. To report or provide information regarding an agricultural crime, call (800) 678-2660.

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